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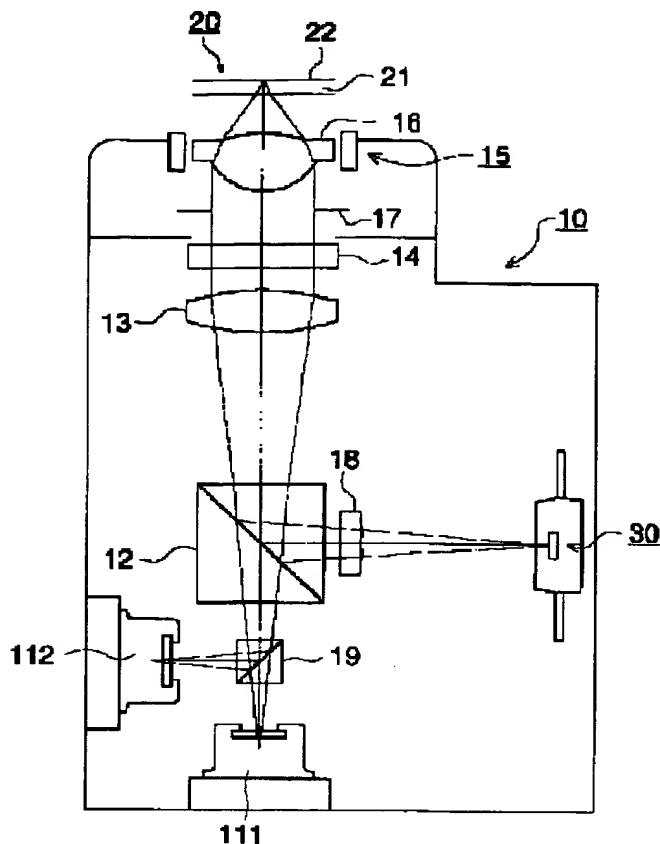
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TITLE : OPTICAL PICKUP DEVICE AND
CORRECTION ELEMENT FOR IT



ABSTRACT : PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To record/reproduce at a low cost plural optical information recording media with a convergent optical system by revising an optical path of luminous flux reflected from an information recording surface to the optical path different from the optical path of the luminous flux outgoing from a light source and providing a means correcting spherical aberration between a revision means and a photodetector.

SOLUTION: The luminous flux emitted from a first semiconductor laser 111 used for recording/reproducing a first optical disk and a second semiconductor laser 112 used for recording/reproducing a second optical disk are synthesized by a dichroic prism 19 to be converged on the information recording surface 20 through an objective lens 16. The optical path of the luminous flux converging reflection light is revised to the optical path different from the outgoing optical path by a polarizing beam splitter 12 to be detected by a common photodetector 30. A ringlike prism 18 correcting the spherical aberration due to a difference between the thickness of the transparent substrates of the first, second optical disks, is provided in front of the photodetector 30, and stability in focus control is improved. Thus, the simple structure and the low cost are realized.

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